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17 APR 90

DIRECTOR

TO: JIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE//FOR INR, DIA WASHINGTON DC,
TREASURY DEPT, WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM, USCINCSO QHTS PANAMA.

PASS: NSA FOR ZKZK 00 DLS DE (FOR NSOC).

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

DIST: 17 APRIL 1990

COUNTRY: CHILE

SUBJ: 1. PERCEPTION THAT PINOCHET IS CONCENTRATING ON
ARMY MATTERS AND ACCEPTING THE TRANSITION;
2. CURRENT ARMY ATTITUDES ON GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING
OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES AND CHANGES TO MILITARY JUSTICE
SYSTEM

DOI: EARLY APRIL 1990

Declassified and
Approved for Release
July 2000

TEXT: 1. APRIL 1990.

ARMY
FIELD GRADE OFFICERS WERE TAKEN BY SURPRISE WITH THE APPARENT EASE
THAT ARMY COMMANDER IN CHIEF (CINC) CAPTAIN GENERAL AUGUSTO
((PINOCHET)) UGARTE HAS ADJUSTED TO HIS NEW ROLE AS ARMY CINC RATHER
THAN PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC. IN RECENT

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Continuation page for [REDACTED]

UNIT INSPECTIONS, GENERAL PINOCHET MADE IT CLEAR TO UNIT COMMANDERS AND THEIR SUBORDINATE SENIOR OFFICERS THAT HE WAS NOT THERE TO DISCUSS POLITICAL ISSUES BUT TO RENEW HIS FAMILIARITY WITH INDIVIDUAL UNITS AND TO ADDRESS THEIR MILITARY RELATED NEEDS. PINOCHET CLAIMED THAT HE WAS AVOIDING PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL ISSUES AND INSTRUCTED HIS SUBORDINATES TO FOLLOW THE SAME TACK. THE OFFICERS ADDED THAT WHILE PINOCHET APPEARS TO BE SHOWING HIS TRUE AGE MORE SINCE LEAVING THE PRESIDENCY, HE STILL IS MENTALLY ALERT AND QUICK TO RESPOND TO ANY VERBAL QUERIES.

[REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED] AS A RESULT OF PINOCHET'S GENTLEMANLY HANDLING OF THE TRANSITION AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF SUBMISSION TO PRESIDENTIAL AND DEFENSE MINISTERIAL AUTHORITY, CURRENT SENTIMENTS ARE FOR HIM TO STAY ON AS CINC FOR THE SHORT TERM TO MAINTAIN A DEGREE OF CONTINUITY AND STABILITY. SHOULD THE MILITARY/CIVILIAN RELATIONSHIP REMAIN CALM, ARMY FIELD GRADE OFFICERS WOULD EXPECT PINOCHET TO STEP DOWN VOLUNTARILY WELL PRIOR TO THE COMPLETION OF THE EIGHT YEARS PERMITTED HIM UNDER THE CONSTITUTION AND LIKELY BEFORE THE COMPLETION OF PRESIDENT PATRICIO ((AYLWIN)) AZOCAR'S TERM IN MARCH 1994.

3. [REDACTED] SANTIAGO GARRISON FIELD GRADE PERSONNEL BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT AYLWIN IS HANDLING WELL THE MATTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS UP TO THIS POINT VIA PRESERVING THE 1978 AMNESTY AND MAKING IT CLEAR THAT THERE WILL BE NO MASSIVE PERSECUTION OF ARMY OFFICERS OR THE INSTITUTION. [REDACTED] ACCORDING TO OFFICERS OF THE ARMY DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE (DINE), DINE'S PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE DEPARTMENT (DEPARTMENT III) HAS A PROGRAM ELABORATED FOR THE PROVISION OF DEFENSE LAWYERS TO ACTIVE DUTY ARMY PERSONNEL BROUGHT TO TRIAL IN A CIVILIAN COURT ON HUMAN RIGHTS CHARGES AS WELL AS A PUBLICITY PLAN TO "TELL THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY" SO THAT NOT ONLY THE ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ARE DEPICTED. VIA THIS PROGRAM, THE REASONS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL OR ARMY INSTITUTION ACTING THE WAY IT DID AT THE TIME WILL BE BROUGHT TO LIGHT. [REDACTED] CONSIDERATION ALSO HAS BEEN GIVEN TO PROVIDING ARMY RETIREES WITH A LEGAL DEFENSE AND SIMILAR PUBLICITY SHOULD THIS BE JUDGED IN THE INTEREST OF THE ARMY INSTITUTION.

4. [REDACTED] THE ARMY IS IN AGREEMENT ON SHIFTING TERRORIST CASES COMMITTED BY CIVILIANS TO THE CIVILIAN RATHER THAN MILITARY COURT SYSTEM AND ALSO ON PERMITTING ARMY PERSONNEL TO BE TRIED FOR COMMON CRIMES IN THE CIVILIAN COURT SYSTEM. IT HAS NOT YET BEEN ELABORATED WHERE THE LINE WILL BE DRAWN IN POSSIBLE OFFENSES AGAINST CIVILIANS THAT MIGHT REMAIN IN THE MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM. IN ANY CASE, THE ARMY STILL WOULD RESERVE THE RIGHT TO PROVIDE A DEFENSE FOR AN ARMY EMPLOYEE CHARGED IN A CIVILIAN COURT SHOULD THE CHARGE BE DEEMED IMPROPER OR UNJUSTIFIED.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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